

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee Meeting

May 4, 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

Draft Meeting Notes

Handouts and Associated Documents:

- Agenda
- Draft 4/20/07 SC Meeting Notes
- Conservation Element Bundle Descriptions
- Draft Short-listing Criteria (Version 4)
- Environmental Water Account (EWA): A Comprehensive Review of CALFED's Environmental Water Account Program
- Facilitator-Lead Scientist Scope of Work
- BDCP Membership Application from The Bay Institute

Introductions

New attendees:

- John Engbring- replacing Dave Harlow (USFWS) upon retirement
- John Kirlin- Executive Director for Delta Vision.
- Gary Bobker: Program Director at Bay Institute

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Membership Workgroup will reconvene to review new applications to BDCP membership
- Scope of Work for Lead Scientist and Facilitator, proposed by Science Workgroup, was approved by the SC
- SC leadership will winnow the list of potential Lead Scientists and Facilitators and recommend a short list at next SC meeting

Updates

- Alameda County DWR court case: Ruling from the judge was made final, but negotiations are ongoing.
- At the recent DRMS Steering Committee meeting, Walt Wadlow presented BDCP. He and other BDCP representatives in attendance, including Paul Cylinder, Laura King Moon, and Cindy Darling, then discussed with DRMS Steering Committee how to collaborate and combine efforts. DRMS may be able to help BDCP with risk analysis of its short list of Conservation Strategy Alternatives (CSA's). BDCP representatives suggested DRMS include an Isolated Facility option in the next phase of risk analysis, which begins 6/15. BDCP representatives will meet with DRMS consultants before their next SC meeting.
- An application for membership to BDCP was submitted by the Bay Institute, represented by Gary Bobker (see Handouts and Associated Documents). There may be an application forthcoming from Contra Costa County Water District as well. The BDCP Membership Workgroup will reconvene to review new application/s. See also Action Items and Key Decisions.

- Delta Vision Science workshop is being held today. Scientists and agency technical specialists will lay out possible restoration options for the Delta.
- Resources Agency is pursuing additional staffing for the BDCP management team.
- Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings:
 - Creation of regulatory compliance workgroup,
 - Creation of an outreach workgroup to develop relationship with Delta Vision and the public, as per agreement.

Review of Meeting Notes

4/20 Meeting Notes were approved with the following change: from “OCAP fits into larger process” to “OCAP relates in part to the larger process”.

Presentation: EWA Status review (John Davis, Bureau of Reclamation)

J. Davis presented an outline of a report on how EWA is going to accomplish the full review of water usage. See Handouts and Associated Documents. IWOFF (Integrated Water Operations Fish Forum) has received partial report from EWAT (Environmental Water Account Team), with full draft expected for BDCP in mid-June.

Discussion of the report outline and participatory review process for the forthcoming report followed the presentation. The EWA schedule includes BDCP review of the report; J. Davis would also like to include public review. Specific suggestions for the EWA report outline and content will be sent to Cindy Darling.

Jerry Johns described the EWA analysis and planning process and the evolution of that process. Their goal is to analyze the full range of future scenarios and associated management tools in order to best be able to manage under a range of conditions; flexibility and successful adaptive management are key goals. BDCP members may be invited to attend their planning exercises.

Science Workgroup Report (Brent Walthall)

Lead Scientist and Facilitator

The Science Workgroup presented a revised proposal for Lead Scientist and Facilitator Scope of Work; revisions were based on feedback received at the previous SC meeting. The changes in the revised proposal relate to communications protocols; more direct contact between the Lead Scientist and BDCP membership during input stage of independent science process is included in the scope. The new proposal was approved by the SC. See also Action Items and Key Decisions.

At the last meeting the SC approved the proposed list of Lead Scientists and Facilitators. Karen Scarborough and her staff have been contacting those individuals. The SC agreed that the SC leads should winnow the list of scientists and make recommendations at the next meeting. Recommendations from members can still be considered and should be sent to Cindy. See also Action Items and Key Recommendations.

Science advisory membership and expertise

A proposed list of types of science expertise that should be included in the science advisory panel was sent to the biologists who have been participating in the BDCP technical sessions. They are expected to provide feedback, which the Science Workgroup will bring to the SC for approval at the next meeting.

Early informal science input

There will be a meeting on 5/9 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. with Denise Reed. She will provide informal feedback on Conservation Strategy process and short-listing evaluation. Details about the meeting were sent to CS Workgroup.

Covered Activities

The PRE's presented a draft Covered Activities description. Included in the document are goals and activities grouped by CVP, SWP, and Mirant proposed activities. The activities description is meant to be iterative and is likely to change based on the Conservation Strategy and associated Covered Species chosen. The relationship between BDCP and OCAP will be discussed in separate meetings.

SWP

Tim Quinn presented. SWP representatives are looking for coverage of current activities and existing facilities, maintenance activities and monitoring in order to meet their long-term goals, based on water supply estimates available today. The sources and amounts may need to change over time due to quantity and source availability (e.g., water accords, water banks). They are including climate change scenarios in their planning and consider this proposal "Delta-centric."

CVP

John Davis presented. They are looking at water needs in the future, due to changes in supplies and demands. They would like to deliver an increased amount of water while still meeting species' needs.

Energy suppliers

Jeffery Russell presented. California is in a major transition in energy usage availability, and regulation during the next 5-10 years; (e.g., renewables standards, greenhouse gas legislation). Industry needs to reconcile reliability standards with new laws. They plan to continue to operate the power plants that are in the Delta.

Conservation Strategy Workgroup: Conservation Strategy Alternatives (CSA) Short-listing evaluation (Paul Cylinder)

Short list of CSA recommendations will be made to SC by CS Workgroup at the next meeting. Recommendations made at 4/20 SC meeting were integrated and presented to Workgroup 4/23.

CS Workgroup had developed ten complete CSA's, with associated descriptive elements. On 4/23 SAIC was asked by Workgroup to disaggregate the CSA's and focus on

analyzing the constituent elements. The elements were aggregated into 22 bundles of elements. Each bundle is a stand-alone set of conservation actions.

Bundles were created immediately after 4/23 meeting, and received approval from CS Workgroup electronically through the CS Workgroup co-chairs. SAIC analyzed bundle performance in addressing stressors on covered species and in meeting evaluation criteria (also called “short-listing criteria”) that had been developed by the Workgroup. The 17 evaluation criteria were put in four categories: biology, planning/feasibility, flexibility/sustainability/durability, other resources impacts. The results of that evaluation will be presented to the CS Workgroup and included in a report. The bundles will be recombined by the CS Workgroup to create a short-list of CSA’s using SAIC’s analysis. It is anticipated that this short list of CSA’s will be recommended to the SC for further development and evaluation. It is anticipated that a quantitative, rigorous, analysis of the short-list CSAs would be conducted in the summer.

The evaluation report will consist of:

- 1) Main document (estimated 100-150 pp), including narrative analysis of each bundle (22 total), including assumptions, broken down by groups of criteria.
- 2) Four tables summarizing analysis.
- 3) Bundle compatibility table

Discussion followed. Members were not universally comfortable with the evaluation process that was approved by the CS Workgroup. Switch from evaluation of CSA’s to evaluation of element bundles was a concern, but understanding that bundles would be re-aggregated into short list of CSA’s by next SC meeting. Two specific recommendations to the analysis: 1) include discussion of water quality in addition to export levels for #8, 2) include ocean management as a conservation element bundle.

Public Comments

Dave Briggs, Contra Costa County Water District. They will likely submit an application for BDCP membership, pending discussion with their Board of Directors. They do not anticipate adding new Covered Activities. They will continue to work with Bureau of Reclamation, with J. Davis as point of contact, to parse existing Biological Opinions that are and are not currently included in OCAP.

Next Meeting

Friday, 5/18/07, same time and location.